mandatory tests on material and workmanship under supervision of the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU). A field laboratory is required to be established by the contractor.

Under the Second Tier of this mechanism, the State Government is required to monitor the quality through inspections by independent State Quality Monitors (SQMs) at three stages of construction.

In the Third Tier, National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are deployed by NRRDA for monitoring of quality of works through inspection, at random. Based on observations, quality grading is carried out and States are required to take action for rectification of works, it required. The Action Taken Reports (ATRs) are also submitted by the State Government to the NRRDA.

(c) If any work is reported as "Unsatisfactory", the State are required to rectify the work and furnish Action Taken Report. Close monitoring of submission of Action Taken Report is carried out and States are required to take appropriate action in such cases.

In so far as Maharashtra State is concerned, as per the record available, in the last three years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto August, 2009), 1400 inspections were carried out by National Quality Monitors. Out of which 30 works have been found 'unsatisfactory' in completed category and 287 works were found 'unsatisfactory' in ongoing category. The Government of Maharashtra has taken action on the observations of NQMs, outcome of which is given below:

(i) Out of 30 'unsatisfactory completed works, action for rectification has been taken and quality grading of 7 works out of 30 mentioned above has been improved to 'satisfactory'.

(ii) Out of 287 'unsatisfactory ongoing works, action for rectification has been taken and quality grading of 130 works (out of 287 mentioned above) has been improved to 'satisfactory'.

DDP in Andhra Pradesh

2898. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks and districts in Andhra Pradesh identified as desert area and such land there in hectares;

(b) the details of the measures taken to conserve land, water, cattle wealth and to preserve ecological balance there under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and results thereof till date; and

(c) the details of the works to be undertaken there under DDP during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) In Andhra Pradesh, 16 blocks of Anantapur district covering an area of about

19.136 lakh hectares have been identified as desert area under the Desert Development Programme (DDP).

(b) DDP is an area oriented programme and implemented on watershed basis aiming at mitigating the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions of desertification. Restoration of ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing natural resources *i.e.* land, water, vegetative cover is the objective. Beginning from the year 1995-96, a total number of 1054 projects (each of nearly 500 ha.) have been sanctioned for which the total central share of Rs. 193.85 crore has been released to the State Government and an area of 4.67 lakh hectare has been treated so far. 110 projects in Anantapur district were sanctioned in 2003 and Mid-Term Evaluation Report, 2006 *inter- alia* indicates increase in the ground water level, improvement in drinking water availability, rejuvenation of wells, easy availability of fodder for cattle and increase in the milk production in the project area.

(c) Under DDP the district agency is expected to undertake the work relating to construction of water harvesting structures, augmentation of water resources, de-siltation of village tanks for drinking water/irrigation, land development including *in-situ* soil and moisture conservation measures, afforestation, horticulture and pasture development, crop demonstrations for popularizing new crops/varieties or innovative management practices etc. The scheme of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) have been consolidated into Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 1.04.2008.

Redefining of BPL Criteria

2899. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that all the people earning less than twenty rupees a day have not been included in the lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;

(b) whether it is a fact that these poor people are not getting the benefits of BPL category;

(c) if so, whether Government is going to redefine the BPL criteria; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development conducts a BPL Census approximately every five years to identify the rural poor families who could be assisted under various programmes of the Ministry. The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group to advise the Ministry on the suitable methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for Eleventh Five Year Plan in August, 2008. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Ministry on 21st August, 2009. The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the